Revival of the system of training dais for maternity service.

* 49 *Q.*—DR. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any proposal to revive the system of training dais for maternity service in the districts; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the system of training dais, introduced as far back as 1926, proved a failure and hence was discontinued in 1943?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"(a) A Scheme suggested by the Government of India on the basis of an offer from the UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) is under consideration. No decision has been taken yet.

"(*b*) Yes, Madam."

DR. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI:—"May I know whether the Hon. the Minister for Health is aware of the fact that a large number of trained midwives are unemployed and, if so, whether this Government will recommend to the Government of India or to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Organization to take steps to see that the services of these trained midwives are availed of, if that is possible?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"From the information available with me, about 827 maternity assistants are employed mostly by the local bodies. As and when funds permit, I hope they will employ maternity assistants more and more."

DR. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI:—"May I know whether the question of employing midwives is entirely left to the local bodies? I find from the Government figures that out of 9,500 midwives trained between 1928 and 1951 quite a majority of them are unemployed. May I know whether it is the policy of the Government to train nurses and leave them unemployed without making use of their services?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"These maternity assistants are unwilling to serve in rural areas. A large number of them prefer to work in urban areas. They are employed wherever there are maternity and child welfare centres, in rural dispensaries and in hospitals."

DR. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI:—"May I point out to the Hon. Minister for Health that I myself forwarded the applications of a large number of trained midwives to the Director of Public Health, to the Employment Exchange and to the Heads of other Departments and that they have all replied to me that they have already a long list of people waiting to be employed? May I also point out that a large number of midwives are willing to go and serve in rural areas?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The hon. lady member is speaking too fast and I am not able to follow it."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The hon. lady Member says that she would send a list of trained midwives and wants to know whether the Hon. Minister would be able to fix them up in rural areas."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The hon. lady Member may write to me and I will have the matter considered."

DR. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" I have been writing to the Director of Public Health and to the Superintendent in-charge of Maternity Welfare Centre to absorb many of these midwives who have been trained. I have also been writing to the Women's Welfare Department in this connexion. I have been told by them that these people could not be absorbed as no new posts had been sanctioned by the Government."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" If a satisfactory scale of pay is given, I am sure, these midwives will certainly be willing to serve. More posts will have to be created in future."

Hire charges for a silent film hired to schools.

* 50 *Q*.—SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) the daily rate of hire charged for a silent film hired to schools from the Central Film Library; and

(*b*) the gain or loss to Government on each such film?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) The daily rate of hire charged is Rs. 1–8–0 per film of one reel.

" (*b*) The hire charges collected are just expected to meet the cost of the film and there is no gain or loss to the Government."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI :—" May I know whether the rate for a film is charged on the basis of a day and not on the basis of the number of shows the film is used for on a particular day? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes, Sir, it is charged on the basis of a day. But if it is charged on the basis of the number of shows for which the film is used, it is likely that a number of institutions will be denied the use of the film."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI :—" In view of the fact that it is not a profitable concern for the Government, why can't the Government hasten to implement the policy of themselves issuing licences for private film libraries? " 11-20 a.m.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I will consider that suggestion."